

CLAIMS

Having thus described the aforementioned invention, I claim:

1. A pet door for allowing a pet access through a structural member, said pet door comprising:

a frame defining a first passageway;

a solid flap attached to said frame, said solid flap sized to substantially fill said passageway and move within said passageway such that the ingress and egress of a pet is allowed, said solid flap having a first face and a second face;

an open flap sized larger than said passageway such that said open flap engages said frame and said solid flap, said open flap having an opening such that at least three sides of said opening are defined by said open flap; and

a snap fastener including a first part and a second part adapted to matingly engage and to disengage under due force, said first part carried by said frame, said second part carried by said open flap;

whereby said open flap is moved by said solid flap to allow passage through said first passageway when a force is applied to said first face, and said open flap restricted from movement by said frame when a force is applied to said second face, revealing a second passageway substantially defined by said open flap.

2. The pet door of Claim 1 wherein said solid flap is constructed of a flexible material.

3. The pet door of Claim 1 wherein said solid flap is constructed of a rigid material.

4. The pet door of Claim 1 wherein said open flap is constructed of a flexible material.

5. The pet door of Claim 1 wherein said open flap is constructed of a rigid material.

6. The pet door of Claim 1 wherein said open flap is substantially U-shaped.

7. The pet door of Claim 1 wherein said open flap is substantially O-shaped.
8. The pet door of Claim 1 wherein said solid flap and said open flap cooperate to produce a weather-resisting feature that prevents the passing of environmental elements through said first passageway.
9. The pet door of Claim 8 wherein said solid flap includes a first magnetic coupling and said open flap includes a second magnetic coupling, whereby said first magnetic coupling and said second magnetic coupling hold said solid flap and said open flap in contact until a force from a pet separates said solid flap and said open flap.
10. The pet door of Claim 8 wherein said frame includes a third magnetic coupling such that said third magnetic coupling and said first magnetic coupling hold said frame and said solid flap in contact until a force from a pet separates said frame and said solid flap.
11. The pet door of Claim 8 wherein said frame includes a fourth magnetic coupling such that said fourth magnetic coupling and said second magnetic coupling hold said frame and said open flap in contact until a force from a pet separates said frame and said open flap.
12. The pet door of Claim 1 wherein said snap fasteners are calibrated to release from said passageway frame at a particular release force threshold.
13. A pet door for allowing a pet access through a structural member, said pet door comprising:
 - a means for framing an opening in a structural member such that a passageway is defined;
 - a means for obstructing said passageway, means for obstructing said passageway allowing the ingress and egress of a pet; and
 - a means for releasing said means for obstructing said passageway.
14. The pet door of Claim 13 further comprising a means for sealing, said

means for sealing providing a weather-resisting feature that prevents the passage of environmental elements through said passageway.

15. A pet door for allowing a pet access through a structural member, said pet door comprising:

a frame member for framing an opening within a structural member, said frame member defining a passageway through said structural member;

a first flap attached to said frame member such that said first flap obstructs said passageway while maintaining the ability to pivot through said passageway; and

a second flap attached to said frame member such that said second flap contacts said frame member and said first flap for producing a weather-resisting feature, said second flap constructed such that a pet is able pass through an open portion of said second flap, said second flap attached to said frame member by way of snap fasteners such that a force greater than a release force threshold applied to said second flap unbinds said snap fasteners and releases said second flap from said frame member.

16. The pet door of Claim 15 wherein said solid flap is constructed of a flexible material.

17. The pet door of Claim 15 wherein said open flap is constructed of a flexible material.

18. The pet door of Claim 15 where said solid flap is constructed of a rigid material.

19. The pet door of Claim 15 wherein said open flap is substantially U-shaped.

20. The pet door of Claim 15 wherein said open flap is substantially O-shaped.

21. A pet door comprising:

a frame defining a passageway;

a flap connected to said frame and residing within said passageway, said flap adapted to move within said passageway when a force is applied to said flap, said flap

having a first face and a second opposing face;

a strip following a substantial portion of a periphery of said passageway; said strip overlapping and engaging both said frame and said flap;

a snap fastener including a first part and a second part, said first part and said second part adapted to releasably matingly engage, said first part attached to said frame, said second part attached to said strip.

22. The pet door of Claim 21 wherein said snap fastener has a preselected release force under which said first part and said second part disengage.

23. The pet door of Claim 21 further comprising a releasable coupling between said strip and said frame, said releasable coupling temporarily holding said strip in engagement with said frame to effect a substantially weather-tight seal when said pet door is not in use.

24. The pet door of Claim 21 further comprising a releasable coupling including a first part attached to said strip and a second part attached to said frame, wherein said strip remains in engagement with said frame and becomes disengaged from said flap when a force is applied to said flap first face such that said flap moves to allow passage through said passageway and said strip disengages from said frame and remains in engagement with and moves with said flap when a force is applied to said flap second face such that said flap moves to allow passage through said passageway.

25. The pet door of Claim 21 wherein said strip has a first terminal end and a second terminal end, said strip including a snap fastener second part disposed proximate to each of said first terminal end and said second terminal end, said frame having a corresponding said snap fastener first part.